



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney
Eastern District of Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: November 8, 2005

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WOMAN ADMITS CONSPIRING TO DEFRAUD EXPERIAN INFORMATION SYSTEMS, INC.

(Sherman, Texas) A former Experian employee has pleaded guilty to conspiring to defraud Experian Information Systems, Inc., through the transmission of false information via computer. **SHARLENE RICE**, 32, of Oklahoma City, entered her plea today before United States Magistrate Judge Don D. Bush.

Matthew D. Orwig, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Texas, stressed the significance of the charges, "A system is in place to protect lenders and consumers while strengthening the economy. The defendant's fraudulent activities caused lenders to grant credit to consumers who had already demonstrated that they were unable to meet those obligations." Orwig added, "Unfortunately, the resulting losses will eventually trickle down to hard-working consumers who pay their bills."

According to information presented in court, Rice, a former Experian employee, conspired with then-current Experian employees to artificially inflate the credit scores of consumers to enable them to secure loans from third party credit

institutions and lenders. Specifically, in exchange for payment, Rice worked with the Experian

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employees to modify or delete otherwise accurate credit history information contained in Experian's computer database for approximately 178 consumers, strengthening their creditworthiness and causing third party lenders to issue over \$4 million in new credit to these consumers.

Rice faces up to five years in federal prison and a fine of \$250,000, or not more than twice the gross loss caused by her offense. Sentencing will be held before United States District Judge Richard A. Schell after the completion of a Presentence Investigation Report.

Special agents from the United States Secret Service are investigating this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Shamoil T. Shipchandler is prosecuting the case.

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